
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 202-224-3324 www.senate.gov/~gregg/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



June 3, 2003

Contact: Erin Rath/Jeff Turcotte

SENATOR GREGG VOTES TO PROTECT STATES FROM COSTLY ETHANOL MANDATES IN ENERGY BILL

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today, during debate on the Senate energy bill, co-sponsored an amendment proposed by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) that would have made the costly ethanol mandate voluntary for states. The amendment would have left the decision to participate in the ethanol program to the discretion of the individual states. The amendment would have also maintained the ban on MTBE contained in the underlying amendment, and would not have modified the responsibilities of states to comply with all aspects of the Clean Air Act. The amendment ultimately failed by a vote of 34-62.

Senator Gregg stated, "This critical amendment would have protected states like New Hampshire from the outrageous increase in gas prices that will occur if these ethanol standards are adopted. While clean burning fuel is a laudable goal, it must be done so in a manner that does not cripple the ability of New Hampshire residents, and residents of other states outside the Midwest, to purchase fuel at a reasonable cost. Ethanol would have to be shipped to New Hampshire from half way across the nation, and since it cannot be blended far from its intended use site, would then have to be added in or near New Hampshire. This would add tremendous and unreasonable cost to the price of gasoline and I was pleased to support Senator Feinstein in this effort.

"In addition, I am concerned that the mandated use of ethanol, while reducing carbon dioxide emissions, will lead to greater nitrogen oxide emissions, resulting in the formation of ozone, smog, and acid rain. As we head into summer, and the height of air pollution season in New Hampshire, it is more important than ever that the Senate work toward reducing harmful air emissions, not increase them. That is why I have joined with Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) and Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) to introduce clean air legislation to protect states in the Northeast from the pollution floating into our region from power plants in the Midwest. As the debate on the Senate energy bill proceeds, I will continue to work toward reducing consumer costs and protecting the environment."

###